sist in death—Newman's most rational explanation seems to the reviewer sufficient: that the fatty envelope becoming solidified after death tends to fix a kidney which in life had been freely movable.

Enough has been said in the way of criticism of this—taking it all in all—really admirable book. The few points mentioned adversely are, in comparison with the vast expanse of valuable material, the merest trifles—details not detracting from the worth of a book which can truly be said to represent a monument of earnest intelligent work, reflecting credit on the author's skill as an investigator and compiler in this branch of medicine. We confidently commend it to those working in this special field who desire to be abreast of what is being done, and predict for it popularity and a large sale. Much praise is due the publishers for the most pleasing make-up of the volume. Their part has been truly perfectly done.

D. D. S.

THE PRACTICE OF MASSAGE: ITS PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS AND THERAPEUTIC USES. By A. SYMONS ECCLES, M.B., Member Royal College of Surgeons, England, etc. Second edition; pp. xii. 372. London: Balliere, Tindall & Cox, 1898.

THE first edition of this book was reviewed in this JOURNAL for April, 1896. The present edition is practically a reprint of the first, but under the auspices of another publisher. Although nothing of great importance, so far as concerns massage, has presented itself in the time which has elapsed between the two editions, and for this reason no radical changes should be expected, yet the revision as claimed in the preface ought to have been sufficiently thorough to correct the typographical errors of the first, some of which were alluded to in our previous review. Not only has this not been done, but the objectionable tales denominated histories of patients are retained. The book, in spite of its obvious defects, really is a valuable one for the physician. We regret that opportunity for its improvement has not been accepted.

R. W. W.

PICTORIAL ATLAS OF SKIN DISEASES AND SYPHILITIC AFFECTIONS, IN PHOTO-LITHOCHROME, FROM MODELS IN THE MUSEUM OF THE SAINT LOUIS HOSPITAL, PARIS. With explanatory wood-cuts and text. By E. BESNIER, FOURNIER, TENNESON, HALLOPEAU, DU CASTEL, H. FEULARD, L. JACQUET. Edited and annotated by J. J. PRINGLE. Part XII. London: The Rebman Pub. Co. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1897.

THE part of this valuable work before us concludes the *Atlas*, which must be regarded as an admirable exposition in color of some of the many beautiful models of the famous Saint Louis Hospital Museum. Some of the diseases represented are rare, while others are common, all of them being well chosen. The drawing and coloring of the plates throughout the work are excellent, and the text is not only explanatory but instructive, in some instances amounting almost to small monographs—as, for example, the article by Fournier on Syphilitic Chancre of the Lip. Part XII. contains Syphilitic Chancre of the Nostril, Lip, and Tongue; Xeroderma Pigmentosum; Impetigo Contagiosa, and Urticaria Pigmentosa.

L. A. D.

PROGRESS

OF

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF
REYNOLD W. WILCOX, M.D., LL.D.,
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND THERAPEUTICS AT THE NEW YORK POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL; VISITING PHYSICIAN TO ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL.

The Saponins.—M. G. POUCHET points out that these occur in a very large number of plants under a variety of names, as, digitonin, gratiolin, lychnin, githagin, senegin, cyclamin, smilacin, quillagic and polygalic acids. These, which might better be called sapotoxins, differ much in their therapeutic and toxic properties. The method of preparation also has much to do with their activity: by maceration the plant may yield substances of remarkable toxicity; if isolated by appropriate chemical methods they may be almost inactive. If obtained by the latter method they occur as an amorphous powder, which varies in color from white to yellow, and is first of a sweetish, later of a bitter, styptic and burning taste. They are soluble in all proportions in water, slightly or not at all in alcohol. They may be divided into two groups: (1) Neutral or (2) of acid reaction. The latter are distinguished by their solubility in alcohol and by their marked toxicity. They are all lævogyre, their aqueous solutions form emulsions, and they dissolve without water in such substances as lead sulphide and barium carbonate. Chemically they are glucosides. Physiologically they act upon the heart, more or less, as does digitalin, but they show in addition an intense action upon the medulla, which manifests itself by convulsions and asphyxia, from which the animals experimented upon die. They are poisons to the central nervous system and to the heart. If given by the mouth their action upon the nervous system is *nil*, but they irritate more or less violently the intestinal mucous membrane, and further, they are caustic. When given hypodermatically they determine death of the tissues at the point of injection. The acid varieties given intravenously produce results differing according to the doses. If these are large, death follows in a few seconds, preceded by convulsions and paralysis of the nervous centres. In smaller doses dysenteric manifestations are present (hyperæmia, bloody extravasations, œdema of the wall of the intestine, hyaline thromboses, necrosis of the mucous membranes).